Docket No.: 1553-018

<u>REMARKS</u>

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 1-4 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4 have been amended to improve claim language and to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection. Claims 5-20 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. The new claims find solid support in the original specification (e.g., page 6 lines 6-7 from bottom; page 7 line 3; page 7 line 10 from bottom; page 8 line 4 from bottom and line 12 from bottom; page 10 lines 4-5; page 11 lines 7-8; page 14 the last five lines and page 15 the first line; page 15 lines 9-13 and 17-21; and page 16 line 6), and the original drawings.

No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

Claims 1-4 should be allowed as indicated in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. Claims 5-20 depend from allowable claim 1 or 2 and should also be considered allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Application No.: 10/083,414 Docket No.: 1553-018

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP

Benjamin J. Hauptman Registration No. 29,310

USPTO Customer No. 22429 1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310 Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 684-1111 BJH/KL/klb (703) 518-5499 Facsimile

Date: March 29, 2004